

LANGUAGE ARTS: BLOGGING PROJECT

September 2, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

An exciting writing opportunity exists for your child. Our class will be writing in an online format using an Internet interface known as a blog. A blog is an interactive type of writing. A student will write a post that is short and concise. Readers are able to respond and comment on the initial written post. The writing remains interactive and contributors are able to correspond back and forth using the blog site. Research shows that blogging improves student writing skills due to increased motivation to write.

The Blog writing will be on the Internet. Student identities will be protected. Only student participants and the teacher will be able to add posts or comments to the Blog. The Blog will be password controlled and monitored frequently by the teacher.

The following personal safety rules will be maintained throughout the blogging project:

- Never reveal information about your personal identity online (ie. name, address, phone number, age, physical description or school).
- Never reveal personal information online about someone else.
- Never reveal your access password or that of anyone else.

In order to set up the accounts, it is necessary to have an email address. Students will be invited to be a member of our online community through the email address provided. They will be given a personal password and login. Once students have received this information, they should print a copy and bring it to school where I will keep a record of all the logins.

At the beginning, students will be invited to participate as “contributors” to the blog. This means that all of their entries must be approved by the teacher before being posted to the blog. This will add another level of security and ensure that guidelines are followed. Students will be able to read and comment on each other’s entries after teacher approval. Blog posts and responses will be evaluated as part of the reading mark in language.

Please provide an email address below so that I can start the invitation process. The email can be a family, parent or student email address. For this purpose, students can also register for a free “gmail” account through Google if they do not have one already. Please let me know if you would like my help in setting this up.

The deadline for submission of email addresses is **Friday, September 12th, 2008.**

Thank you,
Mme Giannopoulos.

(Please detach and return to Mme Giannopoulos by Fri., September 12th, 2008.)

I have read and understood the information about Blogging.

_____ has my permission to participate in the Blogging project.
(Student’s Name)

Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____